

hospital is available at every Gram Panchayat in Gujarat;

(b) if not, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided to benefit the rural people; and

(c) the number of veterinary hospital functioning at present in Vadodra district of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c). The information is being gathered and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Sale of Aluminium Phosphate In Open Market

3438. SHRISURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deaths taking place due to consumption of Aluminium Phosphate, a poisonous chemical, being used in insecticides;

(b) whether the Government have received memoranda/suggestions demanding a ban on the open sale of this chemical; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no insecticide by the name of Aluminium Phosphate. However insecticide by the name of Aluminium Phosphide is registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Some reports of the deaths due to suicide by

Aluminium Phosphide have come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The sale/use of Aluminium Phosphide is already restricted only to the Government/Government Undertakings/Government Organisations under the strict supervision of Government experts or experts whose expertise is approved by the Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India.

[English]

Oil and Gas Development projects

3439. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently sanctioned some oil and gas development projects to meet the growing demand of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details and the locations of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have sanctioned five oilfield development projects since October, 1990. These are projects for the development of the Neelam, Mukta and Panna oilfields in the Western off shore and the additional development of the L- II and L - III reservoirs of Bombay High field.

Production of Saleable Steel

3440. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the production and

saleable steel during the current financial year;

(b) the achievement made so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Expected production of finished steel in 1991-92 is 14.5 million tonnes;

(b) Production of finished steel upto October, 1991 was 7.96 million tonnes;

(c) Various steps such as modernisation and maintenance of steel plants, monitoring supplies of inputs, improved captive power generation, adoption of better technological and manpower discipline and establishment of new plants in the private sector to augment production are taken to increase production of steel.

Steel sector has since been de-licensed for encouraging private entrepreneurs to enter into the production of steel.

Oil India Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Ltd

3441. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant in Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Oil India Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Committee to go into Problems of Farmers

3442. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to go into the problems of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include experts in the field of agriculture and the Members of Parliament in the committee; and

(c) the time frame proposed for the setting up of such a Committee and submission of its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Production of Aluminium

3443. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of aluminium has decreased since 1984-85; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary